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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/721,330	11/26/2003	Jong Seok Kim	0465-1091P	8379

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EXAMINER

FRIEDHOFFER, MICHAEL A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2832

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/15/2007	ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Notice of this Office communication was sent electronically on the above-indicated "Notification Date" and has a shortened statutory period for reply of 3 MONTHS from 03/15/2007.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

mailroom@bskb.com

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/721,330

Applicant(s)

KIM ET AL.

Examiner

Michael A. Friedhofer

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 1, lines 5-6 "the coupling hole" has no antecedent basis.

In claim 6, it is unclear to which screw coupling hole is being referred since it appears from claim 5 that there is a screw coupling hole in both the top plate and the control panel.

In claim 9, line 2 the phrase "align hole for informing" is awkward and confusing. It is unclear how a hole can inform something.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1, 2, 4, 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Visin.

Visin discloses in figures 1-7 a control panel assembly of a washing machine including a top plate 14 of cabinet 12; coupling and aligning holes 70-74 formed in the top plate; a control panel 16 on the top plate and having electronic parts installed therein; and at least one coupling member 26 and 30 at a bottom of the

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control panel to be inserted in the at least one coupling hole to prevent the control panel being separated from the top plate by an external force. The coupling member 30 is a hook having an arrow-shaped cross-section. The hook is formed at least of the right and left bottom sides of the control panel. The projection 60 forms not only a means for stabilization but also for alignment during assembly.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 3 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Visin in view of Ripley.

Visin discloses all of the claimed limitations with the exception of the hook being formed by first and second hooks symmetrical with one another.

Ripley teaches a control panel assembly in which the at least one coupling member is a hook 24 formed by two hooks symmetrical to each other to be inserted into openings 20 and fixing protrusions 26 and 28 for insertion into the openings 18. The fixing protrusions aid in alignment of the parts during assembly.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to apply the teachings of Ripley to Visin to form the hook by molding it into two parts in the panel because this type of hook provides the same purpose of assembling the control panel to the washing machine while reducing the manufacturing steps since the hooks can be molded at the same time the panel is being molded.

6. Claims 5-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Visin in view of Miyajima.

Visin discloses all of the claimed limitations with the exception of the screw coupling holes and bosses.

Miyajima teaches a control panel for attachment to an appliance cabinet in which coupling holes and bosses are formed in the cabinet and the control panel face for attaching them together.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to apply the teachings of Miyajima to form screw holes in the cabinet aligned with screw bosses in the panel because this is for the purpose of solidly fixing the control panel to the cabinet after being assembled using the hooks to ensure they do not separate due to rough use.

7. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Visin in view of Miyajima as applied to claims 1, 2, and 4-7 above, and further in view of Ripley.

Visin in view of Miyajima teaches all of the claimed limitations with the exception of the hook being formed by first and second hooks symmetrical to each other.

Ripley teaches a control panel assembly in which the at least one coupling member is a hook 24 formed by two hooks symmetrical to each other to be inserted into openings 20 and fixing protrusions 26 and 28 for insertion into the openings 18. The fixing protrusions aid in alignment of the parts during assembly.


It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to apply the teachings of Ripley to Visin as modified by Miyajima to form the hook by molding it into two parts in the panel because this type of hook provides the same purpose of assembling the control panel to the washing machine while reducing the manufacturing steps since the hooks can be molded at the same time the panel is being molded.

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Kobos et al, Sapei et al, Nagao, Katz et al, Coates et al, Lickiss et al, and Byrne et al teaches various mounting methods for attaching a control panel to an appliance.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael A. Friedhofer whose telephone number is 571-272-1992. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 6:00 - 2:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Elvin Enad can be reached on 571-272-1990. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.


Michael A. Friedhofer
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2832

maf